

# TOWARD - A - MORE - SUSTAINABLE - FUTURE



## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE RECYCLING TRUE OR FALSE

**R**ECYCLING IS EASY. Most disposal companies use either a single-sort method – combine all recyclables into one container – or a two-sort method – separate recyclables into fibers and containers.

### RECYCLING QUIZ

- 1 Extra recycling bins are available if I need them.
- 2 Twin Cities metro area residents recycle 1 million pounds of paper weekly.
- 3 The recycling industry creates jobs.
- 4 I shouldn't recycle my mail if I'm concerned about protecting my identity.
- 5 I should remove all labels before recycling bottles and cans.
- 6 Some recycling centers require me to remove the plastic caps from bottles before I recycle them.
- 7 Any paper container not stored in the fridge or freezer can be recycled.

### ANSWERS

- 1 **True.** Extra 95 gallon containers are available or you may request an additional regular size bin.
- 2 **False.** Metro residents recycle almost 1 million pounds of paper every single day.
- 3 **True.** More than 19,000 jobs in Minnesota are involved in recycling. Recycling creates four jobs for every one job created in the waste management industry.
- 4 **False.** Mail and other paper are no safer in the trash. If you shred your paper, you can still recycle it. Place it in a closed paper bag and label it "shredded paper."
- 5 **False.** Labels are okay. Remove lids and rinse cans and bottles before throwing them in the recycling bin.
- 6 **True.** However, you needn't remove the neck rings – the part of the bottle caps that are still on the bottlenecks – before you recycle your bottles.
- 7 **True.** If the paper container didn't come out of your fridge or freezer, you can recycle it.

*Whether it's saving energy or guarding precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference in Bloomington...*

## EARTH ACTION HEROES 494 COMMUTER CRUSADERS

**I**N 2008, the I-494 Corridor Commission's Commuter Services saw a 2,500 percent increase in requests for services. Executive Director Melissa Madison, *photo below*, attributes this to three factors: (1) the rising cost of fuel; (2) people's desire to reduce their carbon footprint; and (3) fitting exercise into a busy day.

Madison said 494 Commuter Services' main goal is to remove obstacles that stand in the way of a person choosing an alternate form of commuting.

"We don't just send you a map and have you find your own way; we provide all the resources you need to get from your driveway to work," Madison said.

According to Laura McGee, who commutes from Farmington to NorthMarq Capital in Bloomington via bicycle, this includes personalized routes, maps, road rules and safety tips.

"I learned about the Bike2Benefits program



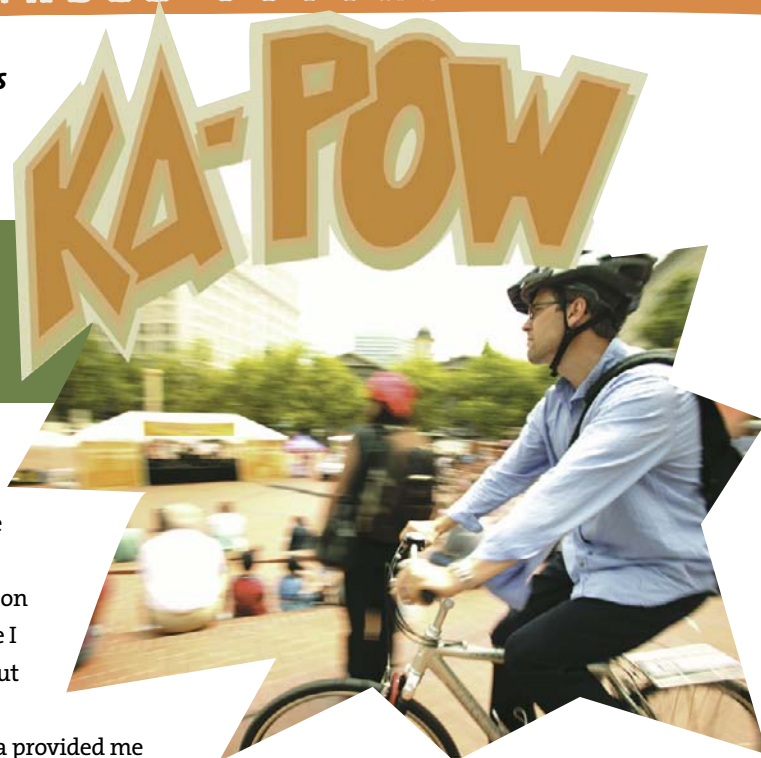
through a presentation at work," McGee said. "I wasn't completely sold on the idea because I was unsure about which route to take, but Melissa provided me with the best route to avoid traffic and connect to bike trails."

McGee's 65-mile round-trip commute has also inspired others.

"I have friends and coworkers who are now trying to bike to work," McGee said. "It's such a great way to 'go green,' save money and get healthy at the same time."

Mike Gilman decided to try carpooling from his Maple Grove home to his job at Thermo King in Bloomington after realizing how many single-occupant cars there were on the road. Gilman requested a Ridematch Report from 494 Commuter Services, which searches a database of 23,000 commuters looking to be matched into a carpool.

"I received an e-mail from a person who lives in my area and commutes into Bloomington," Gilman said. "Her office is only three blocks away from mine."



Once they got to know each other's routines and driving habits it became a very enjoyable experience.

"In addition to the lively conversation, my gas bill is half of what it was just two years ago," Gilman said.

A federal grant was recently awarded to 494 Commuter Services to help companies in Bloomington, Richfield, Edina, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka and Plymouth develop telework programs.

The I-494 Corridor Commission, one of the City's partner organizations, addresses concerns about traffic congestion along the I-494 corridor and encourages economic growth and regional prosperity through improved transportation options.

For more information, visit [www.494corridor.org](http://www.494corridor.org).

## SUSTAINABLE BLOOMINGTON

### PERMEABLE PARKING LOT INSTALLED STORM WATER RUNOFF REDUCED AT HARRISON PARK

**T**HIS FALL, in keeping with the City's commitment to sustainability, a permeable asphalt parking lot and rain garden were installed at Harrison Park on 1701 West 100th Street.

According to Civil Engineer Steven Segar, the asphalt differs from standard asphalt in that it contains very little of the fine aggregate that normally creates a dense, impervious pavement.

"The asphalt looks very coarse and it is slightly more difficult for construction workers to get a polished smooth

surface," Segar said. "Yet, a preliminary test demonstrated that a container of water, when poured directly onto the pavement, flowed right through."

The porous asphalt and rock base layers are designed to infiltrate storm water and minimize runoff that pollutes nearby Nine Mile Creek, reducing annual runoff by 90 percent. A monitoring plan will confirm the performance.

Two rain gardens, one by the center parking median and one just off



the entrance to Nine Mile Creek Trail, were also installed to collect storm water runoff.

In addition, no sand or salt are required for winter maintenance. A plow will remove excess snow; the remaining snow will melt into the pavement.

For more information, contact Steven Segar at 952-563-4533.



### LOW-MAINTENANCE GRASS BEING TESTED SLOW GROWING FESCUE GRASS PLANTED AT CIVIC PLAZA

**A** NEW BREED OF GRASS, comprised of several types of fescue, is being tested at Civic Plaza.

According to Park Maintenance Supervisor Dave Hanson, the grass requires very little fertilizer, water and sunlight to grow, which makes it more environmentally friendly and low-maintenance.

"The fescue grass needs little to survive, so it doesn't grow very quickly,

making weekly mowing a thing of the past," Hanson said. "Rather than weekly mowing, we will most likely be cutting this grass only once or twice a year."

If the grass survives the winter at Civic Plaza, the City plans to plant more test plots in the spring at various low-traffic park areas throughout the city.

For more information, contact Dave Hanson at 952-563-8765.